

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for treating a photovoltaically active layer with a solvent and/or by annealing, characterized in that said photovoltaically active layer comes into contact with solvent molecules and/or is heated.
2. (Original) The method as defined in claim 1, wherein said photovoltaically active layer is a polyalkylthiophene that is present in mixture with an additive such as a fullerene, particularly a methanofullerene.
3. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in either of ~~claims~~ claim 1 and 2, wherein said photovoltaically active layer is exposed to a solvent vapor.
4. (Original) The method as defined in claim 3, wherein said photovoltaically active layer is exposed to said solvent vapor at room temperature.
5. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said photovoltaically active layer is exposed to said solvent vapor for no longer than one minute.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said solvent xylene, toluene, butanone and/or chloroform and/or a further solvent and/or an arbitrary mixture of said solvents at least partially etches or softens said polyalkylthiophene.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as defined in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein said photovoltaically active layer is annealed at a temperature of at least 70°C.
8. (Currently Amended) A photovoltaic element comprising a photovoltaically active layer containing a polyalkylthiophene in mixture, wherein the ~~photovoltaic~~ photovoltaically active layer has an absorption maximum in the deep red region.
9. (New) A method of treating a photovoltaically active layer, comprising:
contacting the photovoltaically active layer with solvent molecules.
10. (New) The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the photovoltaically active layer comprises:
a polyalkylthiophene; and
a fullerene mixed with the polyalkylthiophene.
11. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the fullerene comprises a methanofullerene.
12. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the solvent comprises solvent vapor.
13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the solvent vapor is at room temperature.
14. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the photovoltaically active layer contacts the solvent vapor for no longer than one minute.
15. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the solvent comprises at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of xylene, toluene, butanone, and chloroform.

16. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the solvent at least partially etches or softens the polyalkylthiophene.
17. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising annealing the photovoltaically active layer.
18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the photovoltaically active layer is annealed at a temperature of at least 70°C.
19. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein, after treating, the photovoltaically active layer has an absorption maximum in the deep red region.
20. (New) A method of treating a photovoltaically active layer, comprising:
heating the photovoltaically active layer at a temperature of at least 70°C.
21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein, after treating, the photovoltaically active layer has an absorption maximum in the deep red region.
22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein, after treating, said photovoltaically active layer has an absorption maximum in the deep red region.